

# Ballot Would Rob Woman of Power as Real Reformer, Says Mrs. Woodrow

Can Accomplish More Without a Vote Than Men Can With It, She Declares, Because She Is Free from Suspicion of Graft.

**Stigma of Politics Would Weaken Her Influence and Cause Her Motives to Be Questioned--She Should Be Proud of Work She Is Doing.**



Mrs.  
WILSON WOODROW.

"As long as women keep out of political affairs they will make far better reformers than men." Mrs. Wilson Woodrow, who seems to find time between writing books and fascinating stories to think about affairs that vitally concern the women of her country, said this very calmly and as though she meant it. It was in her pretty home at No. 22 West One Hundred and First street.

"I can't understand," she continued, "how any woman can want to vote. To me it is out of her province. What is to be gained by it? Women hold so much more power now than the men do in so many ways that I sometimes think it semi-intoxication through the realization of their power that has turned their heads and put this foolish voting business in their minds. Through real ability and intelligence they have arrived at a wonderful state of independence and influence, and now they want to spoil it all by voting."

**Don't Need the Ballot.**

"But is it not necessary to obtain a voting power to accomplish reforms?"

No one needs voting power to accomplish a good if she is honest of purpose. That is where the mistake is made. Women think if they get the vote the road will be clear and smooth, but instead of that the trouble will just begin. Why is it that there is so much ridicule of men reformers? What is the popular idea of a man who tries, for the good of his community or country, to pass a reform bill? It is one of graft. You can rarely convince a person that this man is disinterested as far as money is concerned in his measure. That is what is going to happen to women the moment they get the vote and try to introduce reforms or work for the public good.

"At present women are free from all suspicion of graft or favoritism. If a woman would do her best work, let her fight shy of the political side of life. Let her use her good influence with the men who are in politics to accomplish the thing she wishes. She is doing this every day, and a large number of reforms have really been accomplished through such influence."

"Another thing, great reforms are wrought many times without the aid of the law, or the State, or a single vote, and it is just in this important side of the work that women should find their greatest interest, and then if they wish to do more let them use their influence and they have great influence--with the voters, the men."

**Reforms Without Ballot.**

"To-day the women without the vote are far better and more capable reformers than men are with it."

"For instance, women have looked to conditions under which men and women work. They have been the means of bringing about reforms in factories, stores, restaurants, sweat shops, and innumerable other places of industry. It has not been the men."

"These women have accomplished this work, not through voting power, but by an honest protest made by a body of earnest women on the behalf of the working people of both sexes. They have been recognized, by all whom they made these demands, as such large factors in public opinion that without wrangle their demands have been granted."

"In schools, tenements, and many public institutions women have made investigations and forced improvements. Their reforms are, not in 'busting the trusts,' in uncovering State scandals, but in the work that affects the health and welfare of the working people of the city in which they live."

"I do not doubt that in a matter like the race track bill women were to a large extent responsible for the trend it took. But there you have the question that would arise with the women. If they were in politics just as it has with men in so many cases. Was that all passed honestly? Was the reform

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